

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for an electronic system user to programming an electronic system, comprising:
 - generating an electronic mail message in response to data entered by a user, the electronic mail message including user-selected preference data for the electronic system;
 - transmitting the electronic mail message to an electronic mail destination;
 - automatically extracting the user-selected preference data from the electronic mail message;
 - transmitting the user-selected preference data to the electronic system; and
 - configuring the electronic system with the user-selected preference data.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the user-selected preference data to the electronic system in response to a request, initiated by the electronic system, to transmit preference data.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the user-selected preference data includes telephone directory information, and the electronic system is a mobile communication device.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the user-selected preference data includes programming instructions, and the electronic system is a television signal recorder.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the user-selected preference data in the electronic system as at least one telephone directory entry.
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising modifying operating parameters of the electronic system in response to the user-selected preference data.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the user-selected preference data to the electronic system is performed via a radio signal.

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8. The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic system includes a programmable recorder, and the user-selected preference data includes recording instructions.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic system includes a programmable television recorder, and the user-selected preference data includes keywords associated with operating instructions.

10. A method for providing user-preference data to an electronic system , comprising:
transmitting user-preference data associated with the electronic system from a first computing arrangement to a second computing arrangement in response to user entry of the user-preference data at the first computing arrangement;
storing the user-preference data in a database hosted by the second computing arrangement in association with an identifier of the electronic system;
retrieving from the database user preference data associated with the identifier of electronic system in response to a request for the user-preference data by the electronic system;
transmitting the user-preference data retrieved from the database to the electronic system; and
configuring the electronic system with the user-preference data.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the user-preference data is transmitted from the first computing arrangement to the second computing arrangement in an electronic mail message.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the user-preference data is transmitted from the first computing arrangement to the second computing arrangement via a hyper-text transport protocol.

13. The method of claim 10, further comprising transmitting the user-preference data to the electronic system via a wireless interface.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the electronic system is a portable communication device.

1 15. The method of claim 10, wherein the electronic system includes a television signal
2 receiver.

1 16. The method of claim 10, wherein the electronic system includes a programmable
2 recorder, and the user-preference data includes recording instructions.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the user-preference data is transmitted in an
2 electronic mail message from the first computing arrangement to the second computing
3 arrangement.

1 18. An electronic system, comprising:
2 an electronic device configurable with user-preference data and coupled to a non-
3 QWERTY user-input device for input of user-preference data;
4 a first computing arrangement adapted to assemble and transmit user-preference data;
5 a second computing arrangement coupled to the first computing arrangement and to
6 the electronic device, the second computing arrangement adapted to receive and store user-
7 preference data transmitted from the first computing device and transmit the user-preference
8 data to the electronic device.

1 19. The electronic system of claim 18, wherein the electronic device is a wireless
2 communication device, and the first computing arrangement is further adapted to
3 communicate the selected user-preference data to the second computing arrangement in an
4 electronic mail message.

1 20. The electronic system of claim 19, wherein the selected user-preference data includes
2 telephone directory entries.

1 21. The electronic system of claim 18, wherein the electronic device is a programmable
2 television signal recorder, and the first computing arrangement is further adapted to
3 communicate the selected user-preference data to the second computing arrangement in an
4 electronic mail message.

1 22. The electronic system of claim 21, wherein the selected user-preference data includes
2 commands for operation of the programmable television signal recorder.

1 23. The electronic system of claim 18, wherein the electronic device is a programmable
2 television signal recorder, and the user-preference data is transmitted from the first
3 computing arrangement to the second computing arrangement by hyper-text transport
4 protocol.

1 24. The electronic system of claim 23, wherein the selected user-preference data includes
2 commands for operation of the programmable television signal recorder.

1 25. An electronic system, comprising:
2 means for generating an electronic mail message in response to data entered by a user,
3 the electronic mail message including user-selected preference data for the electronic system;
4 means for transmitting the electronic mail message to an electronic mail destination;
5 means for automatically extracting the user-selected preference data from the
6 electronic mail message;
7 means for transmitting the user-selected preference data to the electronic system; and
8 means for configuring the electronic system with the user-selected preference data.

1 26. An electronic system, comprising:
2 means for transmitting user-preference data associated with the electronic system
3 from a first computing arrangement to a second computing arrangement in response to user
4 entry of the user-preference data at the first computing arrangement;
5 means for storing the user-preference data in a database hosted by the second
6 computing arrangement in association with an identifier of the electronic system;
7 means for retrieving from the database user preference data associated with the
8 identifier of electronic system in response to a request for the user-preference data by the
9 electronic system;
10 means for transmitting the user-preference data retrieved from the database to the
11 electronic system; and
12 means for configuring the electronic system with the user-preference data.